UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/051,605	01/16/2002	Stefan Karlinger	70436	1127

23872 7590 04/23/2004

MCGLEW & TUTTLE, PC
1 SCARBOROUGH STATION PLAZA
SCARBOROUGH, NY 10510-0827

EXAMINER	
RODRIGUEZ, RUTH C	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3677	

DATE MAILED: 04/23/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/051,605	KARLINGER, STEFAN
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Ruth C Rodriguez	3677

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *27 January 2004*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *13-23* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *13-23* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *16 January 2002* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 27 January 2004 has been entered.

Claim Objections

2. Claim13 is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 13, line 3, "grove" should be replace with --groove--. Correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 13-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Priest (US 3,813,179).

A clamping element comprises a machine part (vertical 48), a parallelogram sliding block (95), a cam rail (horizontal 48) and a blocking member (95,140). The machine part has a grooved rail with an undercut groove (between 49 and 53 or between 59 and 63 or between 63 and 61 or between 54 and 51) defining an insertion area (57,58,60,65) and a groove base (Figs. 2-11, 21 and 30). The insertion area is narrower than the groove base (Figs. 2-11, 21 and 30). The sliding block has side surfaces defining an insertion dimension (as shown in Figs. 10 and 11). The cam rail has at least a lower rail part (49,53,59,63,61,54,51) and a web (46,47) extending at a right angle with respect to the lower rail part. The blocking member is connected to the sliding block (Figs. 21 and 30). The sliding block has a stop face (flange of 140) abutting at the cam rail (Figs. 21 and 30).

The side surfaces include first parallel side surfaces spaced apart by a distance substantially corresponding to a width of the undercut groove insertion area (Figs. 10 and 11).

The side surfaces include parallel side surfaces spaced by a distance substantially corresponding to a width of the groove base (Figs. 21 and 30).

The blocking member has a blocking member groove (99,101) and the cam rail has a protrusion portion (52,56,62,64) extending into the blocking member groove.

A device comprises a grooved rail (vertical 48), parallelogram sliding block (95), a cam rail (horizontal 48) and a blocking member (140). The grooved rail (between 49

and 53 or between 59 and 63 or between 63 and 61 or between 54 and 51) has an undercut defining an insertion area (57,58,60,65) and a grooved base (Figs. 2-11, 21 and 30). The grooved rail is connected to or part of the machine part (Figs. 21 and 30). The insertion area is narrower than the grooved base (Figs. 21 and 30). The parallelogram sliding block has side surfaces defining an insertion dimension (as shown in Figs. 10 and 11). The cam rail has at least a lower rail part (49,53,59,63,61,54,51) and a web (52,56,62,64) extending at a right angle with respect to the lower rail part. The blocking member is connected to the sliding block (Figs. 21 and 30). The blocking member has a stop face (flange of 140) abutting at the cam rail.

The side surfaces include parallel side surfaces spaces apart by a distance substantially corresponding to a width of the grooved base (Figs. 10 and 11).

The side surfaces include first parallel side surfaces spaces apart by a distance substantially corresponding to a width of the undercut groove (Figs. 21 and 30).

The blocking member has a blocking member groove (99,101) and the cam rail has a protrusion portion (52,56,62,64) extending into the blocking member groove.

A clamping arrangement comprises a grooved rail (between 49 and 53 or between 59 and 63 or between 63 and 61 or between 54 and 51), a sliding block (95), a cam rail (horizontal 48) and a blocking member (140,95). The grooved rail defines an insertion area (57,58,60,65) and a groove base with side walls (46,47). The grooved rail is connected to or part of the machine part (vertical 48). The insertion area is narrower than the groove base (Figs. 21 and 30). The sliding block has first side surfaces defining an insertion dimension that is narrower than the groove base of the

grooved rail (Figs. 10 and 11) and the sliding block has second side surfaces defining a fixation dimension (Figs. 21 and 30). The cam rail has at least a lower rail part (49,53,59,63,61,54,57), a web (46,47) extending at a right angle with respect to the lower rail part and a cam rail stop face (outer surface of 49,53,59,63,61,54,57). The blocking member is connected to the sliding block (Figs. 21 and 30). The blocking member has a stop face (flange of 140) abutting at the cam rail stop face and has a protrusion (95) at least locally overlapping the cam rail part.

The side surfaces include first parallel side surfaces spaced apart by a distance substantially corresponding to a width of the undercut groove (Figs. 10 and 11).

The side surfaces include parallel side surfaces spaced apart by a distance substantially corresponding to a width of the groove base (Figs. 21 and 30).

The blocking member has a blocking member groove (99,101) and the cam rail has a protrusion portion (52,56,62,64) extending into the blocking member groove (Fig. 8).

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 13-23 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Priest (US 3,813,179), Steinke (US 4,408,928), Kahl (US 6,478,501) and German Patent Document DE 38 19 609 A1 are cited to show state of the art with respect to clamping systems having some of the features claimed by the current application.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ruth C Rodriguez whose telephone number is (703) 308-1881. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 07:15 - 15:45.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J. J. Swann can be reached on (703) 306-4115.

Submissions of your responses by facsimile transmission are encouraged. Technology center 3600's facsimile number for before and after final communications is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

Ruth C. Rodriguez
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3677

RCR
rcr
April 19, 2004

ROBERT J. SANDY
PRIMARY EXAMINER